



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507
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Released on August 11, 2006

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Washington's 2006 Winter Wheat Production Below Last Month
Barley Acreage at Lowest Level since 1953
Alfalfa Hay Production Lowest since 1989
Dry Bean Acreage Highest since 1981
Corn for Grain Yields Highest in Nation

Olympia – The August 1 forecast for the 2006 winter wheat crop is 66.0 bushels per acre, 1 bushel below the July forecast and also the final 2005 yield. Estimates in the *Crop Production* report released today by the Washington Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) were based on conditions as of August 1. “As of August 1, harvest stood at 30 percent completed compared with a 5-year average of 28 percent. Harvest progress was accelerated due to hot and dry weather during July. However, this weather did not significantly affect yield potential. Hail damage was reported in some wheat fields due to several rain storms during July,” stated Joe Parsons, Deputy Director of the Washington Field Office.

As of August 1, Washington's **winter wheat** producers reported 95 percent of this year's 1.80 million acres to be in at least fair condition. Producers expect to average 66.0 bushels per acre, based on conditions as of August 1, 1 bushel below both the July forecast and last year's yield. Total production is expected to reach 118.8 million bushels, 1 percent below 2005.

Spring wheat harvest was also moving rapidly with 9 percent completed by August 1, compared with a 5-year average of 14 percent. Eighty-two percent of the State's spring wheat acreage was rated to be in at least fair condition. Yields were averaging 50 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2005's drought stricken crop but unchanged from the July forecast. Acres for harvest totaled 455,000 acres, 30,000 more than last year. Production is estimated at 22.8 million bushels, 22 percent more than last year.

The condition of the **barley** crop was mostly fair to good. Harvest was 6 percent completed as of August 1, well behind last year's 20 percent and the 5-year average of 12 percent. Yield was expected to average 60.0 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below the July forecast and 1 bushel below the 2005 crop. With 195,000 acres for harvest, production is estimated at 11.7 million bushels, 6 percent below last year. This would be the lowest harvested acreage since 1953's 103,000 acres.

Alfalfa hay acreage for harvest was expected to be 460,000 acres as of August 1, 10,000 acres above 2005. With an average yield of 4.50 tons per acre, production was forecast at 2.07 million tons, 12 percent below last year and the lowest production since 1989's 2.06 million tons. **Other hay** acreage for harvest was set at 330,000 acres, 40,000 fewer acres than last year. Yields were expected to average 2.60 tons per acre, with production estimated at 858,000 tons, 1 percent below last year.

Dry edible beans were in mostly good condition, with the average yield set at 1,900 pounds per acre. Acreage for harvest, at 70,000 acres was up 43 percent from 2005. This was the highest harvested acreage since 1981's 69,000 acres. Most of the increase was due to Chickpea (Garbanzo) acreage which increased from 26,100 acres to 48,500 this year. Production for 2006 for all dry beans was estimated at 1.29 million cwt., 63 percent greater than last year's 792,000 cwt. **Hop** production was estimated at 43.5 million pounds from 21,115 acres. Average yield was forecast at 2,060 pounds compared with 1,878 pounds in 2005. **Corn for grain** production was forecast at 14.7 million bushels from 70,000 acres. The average yield, at 210 bushels per acre was up 5 bushels from 2005 and was the highest in the nation. Washington's **sugarbeet** production was set at 71,000 tons from 2,000 acres. Average yield was set at 35.5 tons per acre.

Nationally, winter wheat is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels, up slightly from last month but 14 percent below 2005. Area harvested for grain totals 31.1 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 8 percent from last year. The U. S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushels from July 1. Harvest progress in the 18 major production States was 91 percent complete by July 30. This was 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average.



FIELD CROP SUMMARY, AUGUST 1, 2006

CROP	WASHINGTON							PACIFIC NW 1/		UNITED STATES	
	Harvested		Unit	Yield		Production		Production		Production	
	2005	2006		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Thousand Acres					Thousand		Thousand		Thousand	
All Wheat	2,225	2,255	Bu.	62.6	62.8	139,300	141,550	291,690	280,810	2,003,585	1,746,645
Winter Wheat	1,800	1,800	Bu.	67.0	66.0	120,600	118,800	234,610	218,820	1,499,129	1,283,134
Spring Wheat	425	455	Bu.	44.0	50.0	18,700	22,750	57,080	61,990	504,456	463,511
Barley	205	195	Bu.	61.0	60.0	12,505	11,700	66,730	60,435	211,896	182,972
Corn, Grain	80	70	Bu.	205	210	16,400	14,700	3/	3/	11,112,072	10,975,740
Hops	29.46	28.93	Lbs.	1,796	1,965	39,469.6	43,496.9	52,914.5	56,836.4	52,914.5	56,836.4
Sugarbeets	1.7	2.0	Tons	40.6	35.5	69	71	4,906	5,443	27,537	31,835
All Hay	740	790	Tons	4.3	3.7	3,210	2,928	11,732	12,017	150,590	142,326
Alfalfa Hay	450	460	Tons	5.2	4.5	2,340	2,070	8,888	8,950	75,771	71,205
Other Hay	290	330	Tons	3.0	2.6	870	858	2,844	3,067	74,819	71,121
Dry Beans	48.0	68.0	Cwt.	16.5	19.0	792	1,292	2,830	3,352	27,350	23,301
Potatoes, Fall	154	156	Cwt.	620	2/	95,480	2/	234,478	2/	422,209	2/

1/ Includes Oregon, Idaho, and Washington.
2/ First production forecast November 9, 2006.
3/ Individual state level estimates will be published in the “Crop Production 2006 Summary.”

Winter Wheat Harvested Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2004-2006

State	Acres Harvested		Yield				Production		
	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006		2004	2005	2006
					Jul 1	Aug 1			
	1,000		Bushels				1,000 Bushels		
Washington	1,800	1,800	67	67	67	66	117,250	120,600	118,800
Oregon	780	760	61	61	55	55	47,580	47,580	41,800
Idaho	730	710	90	91	84	82	63,000	66,430	58,220
Pacific NW	3,310	3,270	70.5	70.9	67.9	66.9	227,830	234,610	218,820
Kansas	9,500	9,400	37	40	32	32	314,500	380,000	300,800
Oklahoma	4,000	3,100	35	32	23	23	164,500	128,000	71,300
Montana	2,100	1,950	41	45	40	42	66,830	94,500	81,900
Nebraska	1,760	1,650	37	39	34	33	61,050	68,640	54,450
Colorado	2,200	2,000	27	24	21	21	45,900	52,800	42,000
Texas	3,000	1,400	31	32	25	25	108,500	96,000	35,000
Ohio	830	1,010	62	71	68	68	55,180	58,930	68,680
10 States	26,700	23,780	40.5	41.7	36.8	36.7	1,044,290	1,113,480	872,950
U.S. Total	33,794	31,108	43.5	44.4	41.1	41.2	1,499,434	1,499,129	1,283,134

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2002-2006 1/ 2/

Year	Winter					Spring					
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Hard Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Durum	Total
	1,000 Bushels										
2002	620,328	320,968			195,705	351,439			37,478	79,960	1,605,878
2003	1,070,996	380,435			265,290	499,674			31,728	96,637	2,344,760
2004	856,211	380,305			262,918	525,467			43,451	89,893	2,158,245
2005	929,820	309,021	25,279	235,009	260,288	466,587	4,530	33,339	37,869	101,105	2,104,690
2006	659,948	379,941	19,902	223,343	243,245	422,904	4,689	35,918	40,607	54,710	1,801,355

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey and administrative data. The previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season for States that do not have survey or administrative data available.
2/ Individual Hard White and Soft White estimates not available prior to 2005.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/wwhtaug.pdf>